

Gathering Prayer

Advent 1: Hope

One: Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Yellow, the color of Light, is a symbol of openness, opening ourselves to explore the darkness and light within us. Let us be open to Jesus' bringing the light of love and renewed hope this Advent season.

Green is a symbol of new beginnings and growth. The evergreen of the Advent wreath reminds us of God's never-ending love implanted within us; empowering us with hope and trust so that we will become, more fully, the diverse and unique human beings God has created us to be.

Let us pray:

All: Spirit of Life, help us throw open the doors and welcome the light of Christ into our hearts and our world. Guide us to grow and learn in the coming days, to open ourselves to all the shared experiences that we might live life fully, as Jesus encourages us to do. Gather us as your children, brothers and sisters of the Light of the World, now and always. Amen.

Advent 2: Peace

One: Blue symbolizes Harmony and Peace. In the making of this world, God created diversity, blessed it and desired us to live together in unity with all life and with God. Then, when we rebelled, God sent Jesus Christ so that we would be united as many members, into the One Body of Christ.

Orange is the colour of Healing. In order to move beyond the deep woundedness we have with each other and the earth, we continually need renewal to participate in the healing process. It is through healing that we will begin to experience peace and harmony. Let us pray:

All: O God, as we gather this morning, help us to experience our connectedness to you, each other and all creation. Help us to see beauty and great potential in diversity, just as Jesus did. Help us to stand courageously, side by side, in harmony and peace. Spirit of Life, bring healing in our relationships so that we may truly live as the whole Body of Christ. Amen.

Advent 3: Joy

One: Violet symbolizes the Spirit. God's Spirit is in all of creation, moving, shifting, dancing, dreaming, propelling us to action, calling us into relationship with each other and with all of creation. There is great joy, when we choose to unite with the Spirit active within us and all around us. Let us pray:

All: Holy Spirit, always be present with us, in our church and in our world. What a joy it is knowing we are not alone! Spirit, dance and laugh in our worship this morning, as we open ourselves to the Spirit of youth, the Spirit of Christmas and the Spirit play. Spirit of Joy, gather us, welcome us, in Christ's name. Amen.

Advent 4: Love

One: Red symbolizes Life and Love. Living fully connected to God's Love gives us the courage we need to stand for justice, to express compassion for those around us and to embrace the beauty of our rainbow-coloured world. Let us pray:

All: Holy Spirit, help us to live in Christ's greatest commandment. Open our hearts, our minds and our souls to love God and to love our neighbours. May we experience Christ in our worship and in everyone we meet today and everyday. Amen.